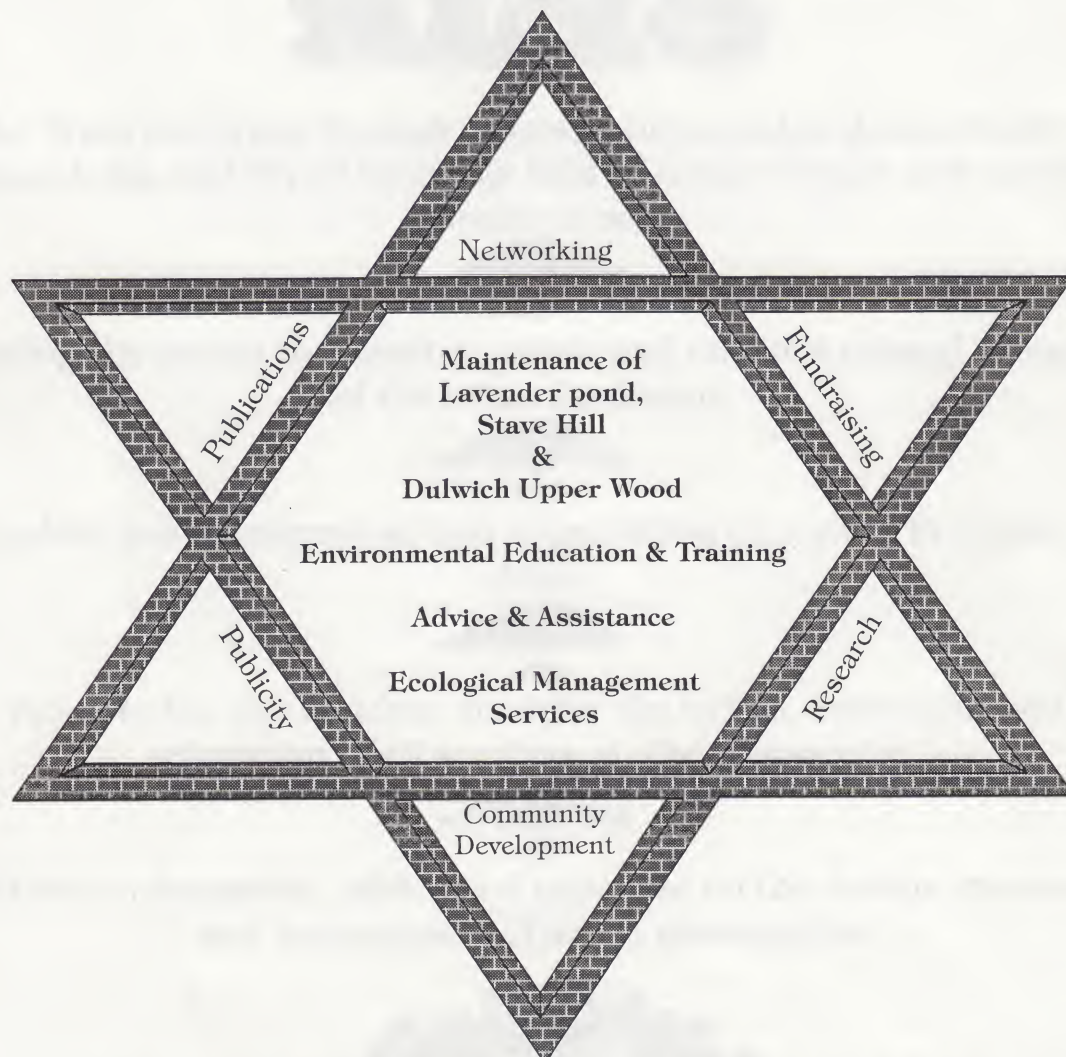


1977 ~ 1996



19 years of achievement
in urban nature conservation



Trust for Urban Ecology works in close partnership with BTCV



AIMS

The Trust for Urban Ecology exists to promote the development of knowledge and expertise in the field of urban ecology and nature conservation.



Develop the means to conserve, create and enhance natural elements of the urban landscape.



Stimulate public interest in, and appreciation of, nature in towns and cities.



Promote the use of urban areas for the health, enjoyment and education of all sections of the community.



Provide information, advice and expertise on the design, creation and management of urban greenspaces.





Closing time at the William Curtis Ecological Park. During its seven year life, the Trust's first park ~ which flourished in the shadow of Tower Bridge ~ was host to a great number of school parties and groups of adults who discovered nature flourishing in the inner city.

HISTORY

The Trust for Urban Ecology, {formerly the Ecological Parks Trust}, was founded in 1977 by the eminent environmentalist Max Nicholson to run Britain's first urban nature park, the William Curtis Ecological Park.



Originally an old lorry park near Tower Bridge, the 2 acre site was transformed into a mosaic of different habitats including woodland, flower~rich grassland and a pond. The park was closely monitored to follow the progress of introduced plants and animals ~ and those that arrived of their own accord.



By the time the park closed in 1985, tens of thousands of people had enjoyed the experience of wildlife in the heart of London and many had returned home to begin similar ventures in their own towns and cities.



In recent years, the Trust has undertaken a variety of innovative activities: producing a handbook on the subject of setting~up and running urban nature parks, conducting the first review of research in urban ecology, designing and managing three nature parks, organising conferences and training courses, and developing a technical advice and assistance service.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Trust has always placed great emphasis on the value of urban nature parks for education. Over 4,000 children a year visit our sites. And they don't only learn about ecology and the environment. Teachers can use a visit to a nature park to develop projects which involve the use of language, art, mathematics, crafts, the physical and social sciences.

The Trust also provides a variety of training opportunities through schemes like Community Action, ESF and by running specialist courses on all aspects of urban ecology and wildlife management.

We are currently engaged in studies of the ecology and conservation of urban fungi, about which almost nothing is known, and also carry out detailed applied research into methods of habitat creation. These include projects like the fungus garden, chalk stream, butterfly habitats and rainwater irrigation/waste-water recycling schemes.



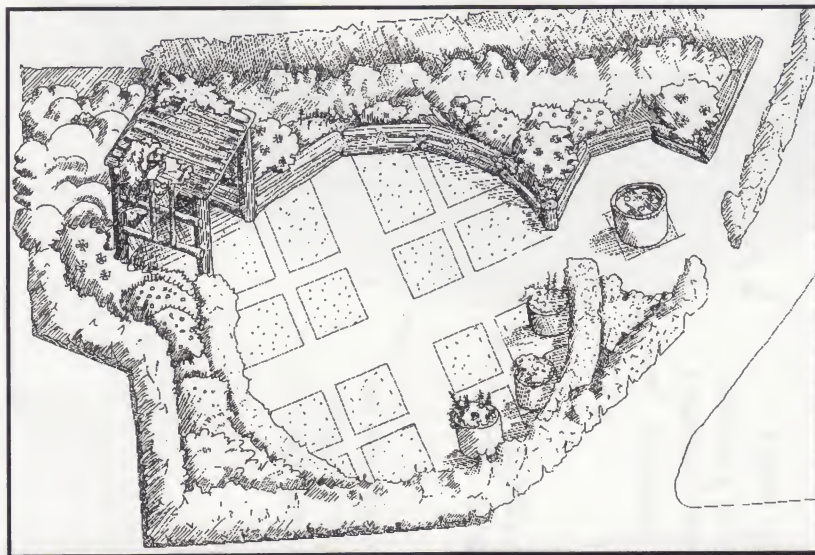
RESEARCH

In addition to the work of monitoring our nature parks, the Trust has carried out a comprehensive review of British research in urban ecology for the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) which summarized the current state of knowledge and identified priorities for future research. Another NCC-funded project looked at ways in which people use urban wildlife sites, with the aim of identifying key factors which encourage or discourage use by different sections of the community.

ADVICE & ASSISTANCE

The Trust produced the first comprehensive handbook on urban conservation: "Promoting Nature in Cities & Towns" in 1986 which was translated into Japanese for use in that country. Covering all aspects from the establishment of local urban wildlife groups to detailed design and management of nature parks and gardens, this book appeals to professionals and amateurs. We also produce a range of other publications.

Our expertise, built up over many years of setting up and running urban nature areas of all kinds, is now being made available via our technical advice and assistance service. We can provide help with design, initial project management, development of education, short and long-term management. A great deal of practical environmental work is done by volunteers, but voluntary action needs organizational and technical support by qualified professionals. The Trust is well placed to facilitate partnership between public, private and voluntary organisations and ensure that money is well spent on projects that will be a success in the long term. This service is also available to public and private sector organisations.



Time & Talents Garden (Rotherkithe)



ORGANISATION & FUNDING

Chairman

Peter Thompson

Director

Clifford Davy

Secretary

Mike O'Neill

The Trust for Urban Ecology receives financial support from a variety of sources including: *English Nature, Department of the Environment, Carnegie UK Trust, London Borough of Southwark (Education & Leisure Services Department), ITV Telethon, the European Social Fund, Linbury Trust, Portrack Charitable Trust, Prince's Trust and the Ernest Cook Trust.*

We would also like to thank the many companies, individuals and organisations who assist us.

For further information, publications list, details of events, advice and assistance services, please send a SAE to:

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